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8 October 1962

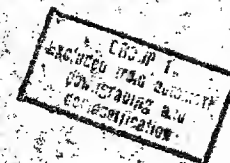
MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: The RIB Program

1. The following are comments you requested with respect to implementing the re-orientation of the RIB Program outlined in your memorandum of 25 September to the ADIC.

2. I recommend that the transfer of the Research Division, OSI, to OSI for the first time provides current intelligence with assets in depth for research and production of fundamental political, sociological and free world economic intelligence which have heretofore been the responsibility of the RIB program. In view of these new circumstances, the RIB program can move along the lines you have indicated and, with allowance for material in advanced stages of production, essentially at as rapid a pace as is supported by the level of effort in OSI and other components in the RIB production process.

3. Your concept of the RIB provides for supplemental coverage on topics requiring a depth of treatment beyond that appropriate in a single-volume general survey. In the field of military geography, terrain and climate are other topics calling for a depth of treatment similar to the supplemental coverage suggested for urban areas and coasts and landing beaches. In the field of transportation a supplement dealing with detailed fundamental aspects of railroads, highways, and inland waterways would be in consonance with the suggested coverage for ports and naval facilities. There is active demand by a variety of users for the present depth of RIB coverage on the fundamentals of population, characteristics of the people, and health; this coverage, for which there are no other focal points, is being produced under contract by several non-USIB agencies which at the instance of CIA established special staffs for this purpose. Under similar arrangements Agriculture and Interior are producing for non-USIB users coverage for the more durable features of natural resources, such as agriculture, fuels and power, and minerals and metals.



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4. With respect to the fundamental significance of user needs, in addition to the Joint Staff and a series of other user surveys since the inception of the Program, DIA is now receiving responses from the field commands and other Service components to the plan for streamlined and accelerated DIA coverage which I recently proposed to DIA planners and which has significant correlations with the concepts you have expressed.

5. Prior to Executive Order No. 10501 of November 1953 wider accessibility to the DIA was possible through the use of the UNCLASSIFIED classification for a considerable portion of the published DIA. As national intelligence, which draws for the most part on classified sources, the DIA is classified in accordance with existing regulations. With respect to special-purpose operational handbooks, it is noted that the sanitized elements of the Army Special Warfare Area Handbook Series are quite distinct from the prior Area Handbook coverage which, like the DDP/TAD Studies, relies heavily on the DIA and is classified.

6. Possible immediate publication by contributing agencies of studies prepared in support of DIA has serious implications in the field of national basic intelligence. More efficient DIA processing resources now being implemented and capable of major expansion through enlargement of present GEL staffs in terms of the program's streamlining can decrease present final phase processing time by at least 50% and reduce to minimal significance any savings in time through contributor direct dissemination. This importantly, this will avoid a retrogression to the uncoordinated and often duplicative and divergent basic intelligence which the DIA was established to eliminate, and would retain the DIA review and control mechanism required to insure the kind of integrated coverage needed to satisfy fully the basic intelligence requirements of the Government.

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Assistant Director
Basic Intelligence

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